

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations, ~~characterized by the use of~~ comprising admixing with said plaster or said plaster preparations the following composition:
  - a[[.]] ~~Tartaric~~ tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight % relative to the plaster amount;
  - b[[.]] ~~Sodium~~ sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount; and
  - c[[.]] ~~If applicable, 0 to at least 0.01 weight % , relative to said plaster or said plaster preparations,~~ sodium polyphosphate with an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units.
2. (Currently amended) ~~The method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations as defined in claim 1,~~ A method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations, comprising admixing with said plaster or said plaster preparations the following composition:
  - a) tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight % relative to the plaster amount;
  - b) sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount; and

c) 0 to at least 0.01 weight % , relative to said plaster or said plaster preparations,  
sodium polyphosphate with an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate  
units; which is further

characterized in that the components b) said sodium trimetaphosphate and/or c) sodium  
polyphosphate are mixed together in the dry state and are added to the plaster to be  
retarded in the form of a fine-particle powder, having a particle size distribution for  
which at least 95% of the components are smaller than 200µm.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for retarding plaster setting and plaster  
preparations as defined in claim 1, characterized in that ~~a compound is used, which said~~  
composition comprises ~~a share~~ an amount of sodium polyphosphate of at least 0.01 weight %,  
relative to the plaster amount.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The use of a compound~~ An additive composition for retarding  
plaster setting and plaster preparations comprising the following components:

a[[.]] Tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight %, relative to the plaster  
amount;

b[[.]] Sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster  
amount, ~~if necessary in combination with and~~

c[[.]] 0 to at least 0.01 weight per cent sodium ~~Sodium~~ polyphosphate, ~~if applicable,~~ having  
an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units, wherein the components  
are added to the plaster and the plaster preparation to be retarded in the form of a fine-  
particle powder.

5. **(Currently Amended)** Plaster and plaster preparations further comprising the ~~components in~~ composition of claim 1.